DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. Smith DATE NOV 17 1982
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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH
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8, 4/50 1 a.m.
CORRECTED COPY

Control: 13372
Rec'd: July 31, 1950
1:21 p.m.

10-B
Action
EUR

Info
SS
G
P
OLI
CIA
AAN
DCR

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 151, July 31, 1 p.m.

Re EMBTEL 147 July 30.

Conference between Socialist leaders (including Buset, President Belgian Socialist who joined discussion later) and Prime Minister Duvieusart and Berryer, Chef de Cabinet of King lasted until 10:30. On leaving the meeting, Buset is quoted as saying "if a definite solution is not found, there will be a civil war in a few hours." Duvieusart and Berryer thereafter saw Leopold to report developments.

Full Cabinet meeting was held at 2 a.m. At 4 a.m. Duvieusart, Van Zeeland, De Vleeschauwer, and Carton de Wiart reported to King. They returned at 6 a.m. and Cabinet meeting continued until 6:45 a.m. Duvieusart then received a delegation of the Association of Former Political Prisoners, a non-partisan group which appears to be playing an active part in seeking solution.

Solution apparently sought is delegation of powers by King to his son, King retaining right to terminate his delegation of power to take place under auspices of National Union Government, i.e. Government of PSC, Socialists and Liberals.

Two infantry battalions of 600 each have been withdrawn from Germany, one (Chasseurs Ardennais) is stationed in Liege area, the other (12th Infantry) in the Mons-Charleroi area.

Confirmed that during manifestation in Grace-Berleur three were killed by gendarmes and mayor of village wounded constituting first serious incident involving a loss of life.

Socialist LE PEUPLE reports from Washington that an unnamed American personality stated US regards Belgian situation as very serious and that US and other signatories of Atlantic Pact regarded events in Belgium particularly grave in view of international

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of international situation. Article quotes foreign diplomat Washington stating that should Belgian situation further deteriorate there was possibility members of Atlantic Pact might make demarche to Belgian Government.

MURPHY

SMD:LAG

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Socialist LE PEUPLE reports from (65 characters garbled) situation as very serious and that US and other signatories of Atlantic Pact regarded events in Belgium particularly grave in view of international situation. Article quotes foreign diplomat Washington as saying that should Belgian situation further deteriorate there was possibility members of Atlantic Pact might make demarche to Belgian Government.

MURPHY

JB:HPM

Note: Repetition requested above garbled portion.

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AUG 2 1950